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Action

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Rec'd: MARCH 16, 1959
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FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

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SENT AMEMBASSY BONN RPTD INFO USCINCEUR USCOB BERLIN

REF: A. BONN 1936 TO STATE, 5 MAR 59; B. STATE 1984 TO BONN, 4 MAR 59; C. STATE G-397 TO BONN, 19 FEB 59; D. BERLIN 651 TO BONN, 24 FEB 59.

1. CONSIDER THAT IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM BEST HANDLED BY IMMEDIATE SUBSTITUTION OF TRIPARTITE MPS FOR SOVIETS WHEN LATTER NO LONGER MAN CHECKPOINTS (SEE PARA 3, REF C). HOWEVER, IDENTIFICATION MEASURES QUOTED IN REF A ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR MILITARY TRAINS AND NON-MILITARY VEHICLES IF THIS IS ONLY WAY TO AVOID ISSUE OF PRESENTING DOCUMENTATION.

2. MILITARY VEHICLES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER. VEHICLES OF EACH OF TRIPARTITE MILITARY FORCES ARE MARKED IN NATIONALLY CHARACTERISTIC MANNER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD MILITARY PROCEDURE. THE FACT THAT SUCH A VEHICLE HAS CLEARED ADJACENT ALLIED CHECKPOINT GUARANTEES THAT IS IS AN ALLIED MILITARY VEHICLE PROCEEDING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. ADDITION OF SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION IS THEREFORE CONTRARY TO CONCEPT OF OCCUPYING FORCES CARRYING ON THEIR USUAL MILITARY OPERATIONS. IN SUCH CONTEXT, ADDITIONAL SIGNS DETRACT FROM THE VALUE OF OUR ARMED FORCES AS SYMPOLS OF NATIONAL DIGNITY AND POWER.

3. REGRADED CONFIDENTIAL 30 JUN 60.

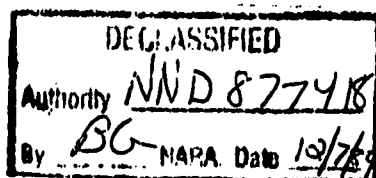
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